



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



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UN-Sudan relations

- United Nations human rights investigators called off a visit to Darfur after Sudanese officials demanded the removal of the UN's former top UN human rights official from the group. The team stated that it would pursue its work without entering Sudan. Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Saddig stated that the Government of Sudan (GOS) was hoping that the UN would have considered Sudan's concerns regarding the team's composition. Al-Saddig further commented that any report issued by the UN Human Rights Commission on Darfur will not be accurate if it is based only on verbal information and does not include an assessment of the situation on the ground. (*Al-Adwaa*)

U.S. -Sudan relations

- In an interview, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios expressed his concern over the expulsion of aid groups from Darfur. Natsios further expressed fear that pro-government Janjaweed militia would try to close Internally Displaced Persons camps. Natsios added that the humanitarian situation was deteriorating in Darfur, noting the expulsion of international humanitarian aid agencies. "The government has lost control. There is anarchy in large parts of Darfur. The risk is that if the NGOs leave, the U.N. humanitarian agencies leave. ... There will be no one to care for these people in the camps who can be trusted," Natsios said. He went on to say that the U.S. diplomacy would focus on protecting the humanitarian aid effort in Darfur. (*Reuters*)

Darfur

- Opponents to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) met with UN Representative to Sudan Jan Eliasson

yesterday and informed him that a cease-fire will not be implemented unless a political settlement has been reached along with a Declaration of Principles based on the division of wealth and power. Further, there are reports that rebel groups refused to meet with AU senior mediator Salim Ahmed Salim. (*Al-Adwaa*)

- Forces loyal to Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi detained a police officer in Nyala yesterday following an attempt by Nyala police to arrest a member of the Sudan Liberation Movement suspected of involvement in the recent killings in Geriyda region. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Miscellaneous

- Police authorities arrested 10 students at Sudan University after discovering a number of Molotov cocktails and knives on the university campus. Khartoum police announced their readiness to deal decisively with all parties that want to destabilize the capital. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Editorials and commentaries

- A columnist for *Al-Rai Al-Aam* newspaper, Khalid Al-Mubarak, commented today on U.S.-Sudan relations in light of the visit by the Rev. Franklin Graham to Sudan. The columnist recognized the "important" role played by the U.S. in the Darfur crisis but criticized "the fierce campaign" targeting the GOS and not the rebels who have thus far refused to sign the peace agreement. Al-Mubarak argued that if the rebels continue to receive international support, this will only prolong the suffering of Darfurians.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.